

REMARKS

Claims 10-19 are all the claims pending in the application after entry of the foregoing amendments. Claims 1-6 and 7-9 have been canceled.

PRIOR ART REJECTIONS:

Claims 1, 3, 6 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Heimbürger (U.S. Patent 5,889,890) in view of Kohiyama (U.S. Patent 5,867,219).

Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Heimbürger and Kohiyama in view of Hackett (U.S. Patent 5,642,170).

Section 4 of the Office Action dated August 11, 2004, acknowledges that claims 4, 5, 8 and 9 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. To place the case in immediate condition for allowance, Applicant hereby adds new claim 10 to capture the allowable subject matter of claims 1 and 4. New claim 14 is added to capture the allowable subject matter of claims 1 and 5. Claims 11-13 are added to depend from claim 10 and correspond to claims 2, 3 and 6. Similarly, claims 15-17 are added to depend from claim 14 and correspond to claims 2, 3 and 6. New claim 18 is added to capture the allowable subject matter of claims 7 and 8. New claim 19 is added to capture the allowable subject matter of claims 7 and 9.

Accordingly, the above noted rejections are respectively traversed and deemed overcome in view of the foregoing amendments.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.116
U.S. Appln. No. 09/328,007

Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

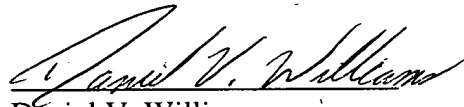
Respectfully submitted,

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Date: February 11, 2005